# Public Comments to State Energy (Electricity) Strategy


Liz Klumpp

OTED Office of Trade & Economic Development
Washington State. Four borders. No boundaries.™

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# Public Comments

- Public Meetings: 12/2 in Spokane; 12/4 in SeaTac
- Written comments from NWEC, ICNU, and one citizen.

# Integrated Resource Planning (Principle 1)

- Do it now!
- Mandate the development and implementation of IRPs under a specific set of guidelines – acquire resources.
- Balance long-term costs vs. near-term rate impacts.
- Implement tenets of 1980 Power Act.
- *Reinstate regional power planning.*

# Balanced Resource Portfolio (Principle 2)

- Need to assess long-term liabilities of our near-term resource decisions. Need full-fledged risk analysis of our power system.
- *Establish a renewable portfolio standard (RPS).*
- Adopt a statewide preference for renewable resources.
- WA support energy sustainability.

# Maintain or Improve Environmental Quality (#13)

- CO2, Climate Change, CO2, Climate Change, CO2 – Mitigate: include in principles.
- Indicate impacts of climate change on NW energy supplies and increase cooling load.
- Acknowledge economic & environmental costs of climate change in WA.
- Say "no" to CA when exporting electricity hurts salmon.
- *Require CO2 mitigation for new & existing plants.*
- *Need legislation to register greenhouse gas emissions – give incentives to businesses to reduce emissions.*

# Leadership

- Provide it.
- *Establish a vision that addresses electricity comprehensively. Address economy, environment, and social equity.*
- Outline state's philosophy: What do we want to accomplish.
- We're not living up to vision of the past.

# BPA – Protect benefits of FCRPS (Principle 3)

- Follow the Power Act regarding resource acquisition.
- Consider highest & best use: Use hydro to facilitate the development of more renewable generators.
- Protect low-priced power.
- Explore how WA can have larger role in BPA governance – including the IOUs.
- Preserve preference for public power.

# Preserve Cost-based System (Principle 4)

- Cost-based should strive to produce low-cost power.
- Clarify a course of action.
- Ratepayers should not bear the costs of losses resulting from utility schemes to make money on the market.
- Need low-cost power to provide a competitive edge to offset higher transportation costs.

# Improve Transmission System (Principle 5)

- Differentiate between use of transmission to export electricity from NW and capacity to improve local operation (include buffering renewables.)
- Grow & maintain transmission – foster use of renewables.
- Concerns about RTO competency.

# Foster Stable Investment Climate (Principle 6)

- If we (public) want utilities to be partners, we need to share some of the risk.
- State fund renewable development; payback treasurer with proceeds.
- State promote investment in infrastructure.
- Investigate what strategies have succeeded elsewhere to improve access to low-cost capital.
- *Investment hinges on ability to attract capital*.

# Lead in Clean Energy (Principle 7)

- Promote clean energy.
- State plan for sustainability should apply to entire state, not just agencies.
- *State play an active role in growing renewable industry.*

# Rely on Scientific & Economic Principles (#8)

- Eliminate the principle – implies we're not doing it now.
- Economic principles for decisions must not be short-term, but need to include the impact on global warming, vulnerability to market manipulation, and fluctuation caused by foreign oil dependence.

# Safety, Security, & Reliability (9)

- Reliability depends on proper planning of system reserves and not operating beyond the capacity of the grid.

# Educate the Public on Energy (Principle 10)

- *Bring citizen initiative and involvement into energy decision-making processes.*
- Educate public in order to make informed choices about energy use and supply. (Recurring comment.)
- Engage community groups in development of energy policy; current forum sounds like a "scrum."

# Other Types of Comments

- "Are aluminum jobs so important they get favorable allocation of electricity?"
- Recognize basic need for electricity to survive – should be entitlement as needed.
- Be carbon neutral by certain date.
- Achieve sustainable river operations, energy resources.

**Vision**: **A sustainable electricity power system**.

The Governor's Executive Order 02-03 indicates the state's commitment to sustainable practices. The State is committed to the mutually compatible goals of economic vitality, a healthy environment & strong communities. The regional & global implications of climate change, loss of biological diversity, & threats to resources such as clean water require us all to examine & change behaviors. A sustainable electricity power system is one that meets the needs of Washington's current residents, businesses, industries, & institutions without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This indicates the need for a balanced approach that results in a sustainable electricity supply, the efficient use of electricity resources, stable electricity prices, environmental stewardship, & social equity.